



2021 CHG FINAL PROJECT REPORTS

The information has been provided by recipients of 2021 Community Heritage Grants

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Significance Assessments

SA – National Railway Museum – CHG2021/003

The National Railway Museum received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of its rolling stock, documentary, object, and audio-visual collections.

This self-funded, largely volunteer run organisation is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of railway history. The historic archive section of the Museum covers railways throughout Australia more broadly, housing over 80 items of rolling stock related to South Australian Railways, Commonwealth Railways, and private operators, on all three major railway gauges in use throughout Australia's history.

Kevin Jones undertook the Assessment which has enabled the Museum to identify rolling stock of the greatest historical value.

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Email: cbm@nrm.org.au

NSW – Australian Railways Historical Society NSW Division - CHG2021/010

The Australian Railways Historical Society NSW Division received \$14,171 for a Significance Assessment of the ARHS Archive.

This archive contains historic railway photographs and a wide range of records and documents relating to Australian railway operations and provides a research service which is especially used by the transport industry and railway organisations to access original drawings and specifications and obtain the historical context and interpretation of railway infrastructure, plant and installations.

The Significance Assessment was undertaken by Adrian Cunningham and Andrew Grant of Significance International, resulting in a highly detailed report providing a comprehensive description of the collection and assessment of it within the broader Australian context.

The ARHS remarked that the report has provided a vindication of the decades of work by dedicated volunteers who complied and care for the archive and has led to a renewed sense of commitment to it. They feel that the Significance Assessment will now lead to community engagement with the archive, stronger networks within the heritage sector, and a greater profile and visibility of the collection which will increase their capacity to lobby for increased resources.

Contact: Paul Scells, General Manager

Phone: (02) 9699 4595

Email: mail@arhsnsw.com.au

Significance Assessment

NT – Charles Darwin University Art Gallery – CHG2021/013

The CDU Art Gallery received \$7,552 for a Significance Assessment of the CDU Art Collection, the second largest public collection of art in the Northern Territory.

This collection encompasses works on paper, limited-edition prints, paintings and a significant collection of bark paintings and sculpture. It features work by established and emerging Australian Indigenous, non-Indigenous and Southeast Asian artists inspired by or with a connection to the Northern Territory and adjoining regions, and also the largest repository of works by Therese Ritchie, Chips Mackinolty and Franck Gohier.

Mr Rodney James undertook the assessment and produced a report articulating the national, state, community and teaching significance of the Gallery, and its role as an important repository of artworks by Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous artists.

Contact: Dr Joanna Barrkman, Curator
Phone: (08) 8946 7430
Email: joanna.barrkman@cdu.edu.au

VIC – Castlemaine Art Museum - CHG2021/041

The Castlemaine Art Museum Ltd received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Social History Collection.

The Castlemaine Art Museum (CAM) was established in 1913 by community initiative and remains a membership-based organisation, collecting and exhibiting both art and social-historical material.

The declared purpose of the organisation is to provide access to work by living Australian artists to a regional Victorian community. It is envisaged that the Significance Assessment will lead to stronger sense of the collection scope, enhanced community engagement and stronger networks within the heritage sector, and a greater profile and visibility of the collection which will increase capacity to lobby for increased resources.

Contact: Miss Nell Fraser, General Manager
Phone: (03) 5472 2292
Email: frontofhouse@castlemainegallery.com

VIC – Benalla Art Gallery - CHG2021/040

The Benalla Art Gallery received \$5,458 for a Significance Assessment of the Benalla Art Gallery Collection.

Housed in an iconic modernist building, the Benalla Art Gallery has become one of Australia's leading small regional art galleries with a collection spanning three centuries of Australian art.

Caroline Field, Curator of the ACU Art Collection undertook the assessment with support from previous AMAGA Regional Digitisation Project Officer, Annabelle Williams.

Significance Assessment

The Significance Assessment articulated the artistic, community, and historical importance of the collection, while making recommendations which will be pivotal in guiding future collection management and development.

Contact: Eric Nash, Director
Phone: (03) 5760 2619
Email: gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au

NSW - City of Parramatta Council - CHG2021/050

The City of Parramatta Council received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of their Local Studies Research Library.

The Significance Assessment was undertaken by Roslyn Russell and confirmed that the Local Studies Research Collection is a rich documentation of the story of Australia's second oldest European settlement dating from 1788.

This project was timely due to the relocation of the collection into the new City of Parramatta community, cultural and civic building and will provide a key starting point for the broadened new team to understand this specialised collection.

This project also confirmed the gaps in resources relating to the multicultural place that Parramatta has become since 1788; this assessment will be used to provide evidence to advocate for additional resources.

It also identified gaps in knowledge relating to the handling, storage and accessibility of various rare and valuable items.

Contact: Janelle Blucher, Coordinator Research and Collections
Phone: (02) 8839 3324
Email: localstudies@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

VIC - Carmelite Memorial Library of Spirituality and Mariology - CHG2021/053

The Carmelite Memorial Library of Spirituality and Mariology received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Carmelite Library Rare Books Collection.

The Carmelite Library is a theological library in Melbourne specialising in spirituality and mysticism and is a research library of the University of Divinity. The growing rare books collection extends from the earliest imprint in 1538 and encompasses Carmelite history, spirituality, and tradition, with other related material.

The significance assessment undertaken by Constant Mews confirmed that Carmelite-related works comprise the great majority of the works in the Rare Books Collection and initiated work that was overdue for action, including correct chronological arrangement of the pre-1850 titles, preparation of the rare books room, identification of donated works, cataloguing of some works still awaiting attention, and improving the condition of many of the items.

Significance Assessment

The project has assisted the library's profile and visibility, raising awareness of its dedication to the literature through time, and marks the first step towards the proper housing and maintenance of the collection.

Contact: Philip Harvey, Librarian

Phone: 0411 253 599

Email: librarian@carmelitelibrary.org

NSW - Society of Australian Genealogists - CHG2021/070

The Society of Australian Genealogists received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of their archive.

The Society, formed in 1932, is the oldest family history society in Australia and serves both amateur and professional genealogists with a principal object is the advancement of genealogical education through education program and the management of collections.

Roslyn Russell undertook the assessment that has resulted in improved knowledge of the Society's collection content and increased commitment to the continued preservation and promotion of its archival material.

Roslyn Russell also conducted a two-hour workshop for SAG staff and volunteers on the significance assessment process and methodology.

Contact: Dr Alexandra Mountain, Archival Project Manager

Phone: (02) 9247 3953

Email: info@sag.org.au

NSW - Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club - CHG2021/082

The Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of their archival collection.

The Bondi Surf Bather Lifesaving Club is the world's first surf club and was formed in February 1907. This iconic Club has provided surf lifesaving services to Bondi Beach, been at the forefront of developing lifesaving techniques and was a leader in the development of Surf Lifesaving in Australia. The BSBLSC has contributed significantly to the development of Australian beach culture and has a heritage that surpasses surf lifesaving clubs worldwide.

Professional archivist Christine Yeats was engaged to complete the significance assessment for the BSBLSC, which will improve knowledge of the collection content and increase commitment to the continued preservation and promotion of its archival material.

Contact: Tanya Jackson, Archives Officer

Phone: (02) 9300 9279

Email: president@bondisurfclub.com.au

VIC – Nhill & District Historical Society - CHG2021/088

The Nhill & District Historical Society Inc received \$6,096 for a Significance Assessment of their collection, which was undertaken by Emma Russell History at Work.

Significance Assessment

The Society's collection includes a vast array of artifacts and documents related to the development of Nhill and the surrounding District that depict social and agricultural history. The collection records important stories of wheat, wool, pastoralism, and the evolution of the rural communities that drove those industries. It also provides a record of life in the Wimmera, and features household items, apparel, personal accessories, wedding gowns, children's clothing, clothes washing implements, and machinery.

The Significance Assessment report has provided the Society a clearer idea of the local and national research potential of this large collection and highlighted its strengths. It will form the basis of a collection development policy, and once a Preservation Needs Assessment has been completed will inform a comprehensive long term management plan.

Contact: Kay Scott, Secretary
Phone: 0428 512 730
Email: ajdkscott@gmail.com

NSW - Tranby National Indigenous Education and Training - CHG2021/098

Tranby National Indigenous Education and Training received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of their iconic Indigenous social and political history collections.

Tranby is a nationally Registered Training Organisation (RTO) offering bespoke accredited courses and culturally responsive community-controlled initiatives to empower First Nations communities.

It is Australia's oldest independent Indigenous education provider and throughout its 65-year history has supported thousands of Indigenous graduates and maintained a reputation for excellent Aboriginal governance, receiving special recognition in the Indigenous Governance Awards 2016.

The assessment was completed by Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research and Dr Kirsten Thorpe (Worimi) who engaged with Tranby's staff and Elders to articulate the value embedded within them.

The assessment process also strengthened relationships with Jumbunna and relevant Indigenous archivists. It will enable lobbying for further resources to safeguard, preserve and digitise this important collection.

Having an Indigenous-led organisation undertake the work was invaluable as they understood the history was more than the archival documents but referenced the living, breathing and the thriving entity that is Tranby as a community meeting place for generations past, present and emerging.

Contact: Jacinta Bailey, Research and Community Projects Manager
Phone: (02) 9660 3444
Email: j.bailey@tranby.edu.au

Significance Assessment

VIC - Her Place Women's Museum Australia - CHG2021/117

Her Place Women's Museum Australia received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of the Emily's List Australia (ELA) archives.

Her Place Women's Museum Australia celebrates the social, civic and entrepreneurial achievements of all Australian women, and their role in shaping our nation. EMILY's List Australia provides a financial, political, and personal support network for progressive Labour women candidates. It is the only network of its kind in Australian politics and supports ideals of gender equality.

The Significance Assessment has enabled EMILY's List Australia (ELA) and Her Place Women's Museum Australia to develop a broader knowledge of the ELA collection content and articulate the cultural importance of the ELA collection as a representation and expression of contemporary Australian activism and suffrage history.

The assessment confirmed that the ELA collection captures the contributions and efforts of many women who have striven to bring about social and political change in Australia through affirmative action, and is a broad community asset recording the aspirations, intentions, and actions of progressive, feminist, Labor movement.

Contact: Penelope Lee, Board Director
Phone: 0438 360 482
Email: penelope.lee@herplacemuseum.com

VIC - William Angliss Institute - CHG2021/128

The William Angliss Institute received \$4,500 for a Significance Assessment of a rare Australian Menu Collection. The assessment was undertaken by Susan Faine and Emma Russell at History at Work.

William Angliss Institute is a specialist training provider for the foods, tourism, hospitality and events industries, delivering a range of courses within Australia and internationally. The Learning Resource Centre at the Melbourne Campus of William Angliss Institute contains Special Collections reflecting a wide range of historically significant culinary materials.

This project was completed by a team of professional historians from History at Work and encompassed a comparative analysis of the cultural heritage significance of the collection against other institutions' similar collections.

It has enhanced the understanding of this rare and significant the collection and will lead to a plan for appropriate conservation and preservation. It also articulated the library's relevance to the Institute's community and stakeholders.

Contact: Vicky Qin, Special Collections Librarian
Phone: (03) 9606 2589
Email: info@angliss.edu.au

Significance Assessment

QLD - Mount Isa City Library - CHG2021/149

The Mount Isa City Library received \$5,945 for a Significance Assessment of the Library Historical Collection.

Mount Isa City library serves the administrative, commercial, and industrial centre of Queensland's remote northwest, and holds an extensive historical collection focusing on the history of the town and mining in the area.

The assessment undertaken by Judith Nissen has enabled an understanding of the true significance of the collection and provided guidelines for future management. The resulting report has enabled the library to successfully apply for a Strategic Priorities Grant from the Queensland Government, enabling the digitisation of photographs which will soon be publicly available online.

Contact: Lois Huston, Library Services Coordinator

Phone: (07) 4747 3352

Email: loish@mountisa.qld.gov.au

NSW - Wellington Historical Society Inc - CHG2021/094

The Wellington Historical Society Inc received \$5,927 for a Significance Assessment of Wellington Historical Society collection.

The Wellington Museum has been operating since 1952 and holds over 5,000 items ranging from archival documents, books, items relating to agriculture, domestic life, local businesses – especially the collection of Chinese items from the Fong Lee and Co. Store – and a large collection of textile items.

The assessment was undertaken by Roslyn Russell and has improved the Wellington Historical Society's knowledge of their collection and provided guidance for its future management.

Contact: Dorothy Blake, Curator

Phone: (02) 6845 2325

Email: oxleymuseum@gmail.com

WA - Mount Lawley Society - CHG2021/150

The Mount Lawley Society received \$4,950 for a Significance Assessment.

The Mount Lawley Society is a not-for-profit volunteer community-based heritage organisation that exists to promote a greater awareness and protection of local heritage protection areas within Mount Lawley, Menora and Inglewood.

The Mount Lawley Society Collection is an eclectic mix of primary source documents (photographs and newspaper paper cuttings), scanned secondary source documents (such as reference books), original historical records and a small number of objects, and 98% is currently in a digital format.

Significance Assessment

The Society engaged Cathy Day of Heritage Today to conduct the assessment. Her report considered comparative collections within other areas of Federation architecture and within Western Australia, and the collection themes for contribution to historical research.

Contact: Barry Smith, Secretary

Phone: (08) 9271 1340

Email: mountlawleysociety@gmail.com

Preservation Needs Assessments

QLD – Outback Gondwana Foundation Limited – CHG2021/001

The Outback Gondwana Foundation Limited received \$5,300 to undertake a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Eromanga Natural History Museum Geoscience Collection.

The Collection represents the largest combined collection of dinosaur and megafauna from central Australia and centres on the discoveries of cretaceous, quaternary, and tertiary aged fossil sites in Southwestern Queensland, representing many items that are of both national and international significance. The Museum collection records the fossil, natural and cultural heritage of the upper Murray/Darling and Lake Eyre/Cooper basins and is regarded the authority on south-western Queensland natural history.

Joanne Wilkinson, Senior Fossil Preparator and Volunteer Coordinator from the Queensland Museum, undertook the assessment and provided key recommendations for the storage and stabilisation of this highly fragile and specialised collection. Her clear, measurable and achievable recommendations will support future funding and collection developments.

A further benefit of this project was the development of a valuable cross institutional relationships with Queensland Museum's Geosciences department.

Contact: Corey Richards, Operations and HR Manager

Phone: (07) 4656 4967

Email: info@enhm.com.au

VIC – Trafalgar Holden Museum Incorporated – CHG2021/007

The Trafalgar Holden Museum received \$4,500 to undertake a Preservation Needs Assessment of their socially and culturally important collection of vehicles, objects, artefacts, images, written materials, ephemera and memorabilia pertaining to the history of the iconic Holden car.

This Museum is solely run by volunteers and the extensive collection is housed within a former butter and cheese factory.

Conservator Sherryn Vardy provided specific advice on the challenges presented by these heritage buildings. Her detailed report provided prioritised recommendations and will enable the Museum to develop a plan to ensure that the collection is managed according to accepted standards.

The Preservation Needs Assessment report has already informed a separate external funding request for building works to better manage the environmental conditions for the collection and has informed key internal actions to rehouse collection materials.

Contact: Mick Bourke OAM, Vice president

Phone: 0409 512 672

Email: mjbourke@dcsi.net.au

Preservation Assessment

NSW – The Embroiderers' Guild New South Wales Inc – CHG2021/002

The Embroiderers' Guild New South Wales Inc received \$4,500 to undertake a Preservation Needs Assessment of their extensive collection of historical and modern embroidered textiles and related tools and objects.

The assessment was completed by Tessa Evans of Heights Heritage Conservation, who specialises in tapestry and textile conservation. She also provided basic conservation training for collection team members, which was especially timely given the recent flooding and water damage to some collection items.

The resulting report has assisted planning for the effective on-going management of the Guild's significant embroidery and textiles collection.

Contact: Margaret Smith, Treasurer and Public Officer

Phone: (02) 9743 2501

Email: info@embroiderersguildnsw.org.au

NT – Anangu Uwankaraku Punu Aboriginal Corporation (trading as Maruku Arts)– CHG2021/071

The Anangu Uwankaraku Punu Aboriginal Corporation (trading as Maruku Arts) received \$7,095 to undertake a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Maruku Arts Collection.

Maruku is owned and operated by 500 Anangu artists from 22 communities (Aboriginal people from the NPY Lands), and for 35 years Maruku has operated as a not-for-profit art and craft corporation.

The Maruku Collection is the only Anangu owned punu (woodcarvings) collection in the central desert and contains over 530 works within the collection and a further 1,300 items in process which are mainly wood carvings and some paintings.

The Preservation Needs Assessment was undertaken by Artlab and will result in guidelines and recommendations for the handling and storage of collection items, and a long-term preservation and exhibition strategy for this highly significant collection of mostly organic material.

Contact: Liane Wendt, Art Projects Manager and Arts Administration

Phone: (08) 8956 2153

Email: artprojects@maruku.com.au

WA - The Royal Western Australian Historical Society Inc. - CHG2021/085

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society received \$4,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of artefacts and artworks.

Since 1926 the Society's Museum collection has grown to comprise thousands of items including artworks, costume and accessories, textiles, domestic and work items, dolls and other toys, furniture, and ephemera that provide an insight into the social history of Western Australia.

Preservation Assessment

Conservator Stephanie Baily produced a very comprehensive Preservation Needs Assessment report which has clearly established the short and longer-term priorities and improvements which can be made within the limitations of the current building and storage.

It also provides information on improvements for the display of the collection and highlights the immediate need to develop a disaster preparedness plan.

Contact: Vanessa Roth, Curator, Collections Manager

Phone: (08) 9386 3841

Email: admin@histwest.org.au

QLD - University of Southern Queensland - CHG2021/086

The University of Southern Queensland received \$4,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment for *The Toowoomba Chronicle* Archives Collection.

The University of Southern Queensland has become a prominent teaching and research institution providing education worldwide from three regional locations (Toowoomba, Springfield and Ipswich), and its Historical Archives preserve the memory of the University and maintain collections (of local and national significance) on the University's history.

The Preservation Needs Assessment was conducted by Lydia Egunnike and provided a clear analysis of the condition of the collection, which has experienced a major deterioration in the cellulose acetate negative due to previous inappropriate storage conditions.

Her recommendations report will support future grant applications for the development of better storage and measures to make this material more accessible to the community.

Contact: Monica Casavieja Muniz, University Archivist

Phone: (07) 4631 1907

Email: eims@usq.edu.au

WA - City of South Perth - CHG2021/111

The City of South Perth received \$4,500 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the City of South Perth Art Collection.

The City of South Perth holds a public art collection including works by iconic Australian artist/author May Gibbs, and her father Herbert William Gibbs, who were once South Perth residents.

Conservator Tony Jones conducted the assessment and his recommendations and report have significantly improved the City's understanding of the needs of the collection, and the prioritised investment and steps required to ensure the longevity of the significant artworks in its collection.

His report also provides useful practical advice that will guide the work of the South Perth Historical Society and City Officers directly involved in handling and displaying collection items and provides strong evidence that will support advocacy and bids for improved resourcing.

Preservation Assessment

The project also afforded the City of Perth an opportunity to work with one of very few accredited conservators working in Western Australia, enlarging the City's access to a wide range of specialist resources, and extending the level of awareness of the City's collection across professional networks.

Contact: Dr Duncan McKay, Arts Officer
Phone: (08) 9474 0777
Email: enquiries@southperth.wa.gov.au

NSW - Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre Ltd - CHG2021/138

The Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre Ltd received \$5,597 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre's Movable Cultural Heritage.

Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre incorporates a 12.5-acre Japanese Stroll Garden with a cultural centre housing a vast collection of Japanese moveable heritage items. The organisation also works to maintain the authenticity of the Ken Nakajima designed garden and build the Cowra-Japan relationship.

The Preservation needs assessment was completed by Tegan Anthes and her recommendations have already led to immediate actions including the installation of data loggers to measure temperature and humidity in both the cultural centre and storage room.

The report has also improved the knowledge and awareness of staff and volunteers handling and maintaining the collection.

It will enable the Centre to build networks in the cultural heritage and gallery sector (they are already liaising with a regional gallery to establish a mentoring program for staff). It will also assist them to seek funding opportunities to assist with improved facilities for preservation and storage for this significant collection.

Contact: Shane Budge, Manager
Phone: (02) 6341 2233
Email: manager@cowragarden.com.au

NSW - Blacktown City Council - CHG2021/157

The Blacktown City Council received \$5,400 for a Preservation Needs Assessment of the Garage Graphix collection.

Blacktown Arts is the cultural facility of Blacktown City Council and is the only professional arts organisation in the region and manages the City's cultural collections.

Consultant conservator Tegan Anthes was engaged to conduct the assessment of over 400 screen printed posters, and related artwork, workshop equipment, materials and organisational administrative ephemera, produced between 1981-1998 by the Garage Graphix Community Arts Inc.

This material is held in a controlled environment at The Leo Kelly Blacktown Arts Centre, and the related material and equipment which is currently held in shipping containers at a Blacktown City Council works depot in Oakhurst.

Preservation Assessment

The resulting report will guide the future management and ongoing accessibility of the Garage Graphix archive to the local community, key stakeholders, as well as to the broader community across NSW and nationally. In particular, the report highlights issues arising from collection care and handling, assessment and documentation, storage and lighting of the collection, and the archiving of the related material and equipment.

Contact: Paul Howard, Curator and Collection Manager

Phone: (02) 9838 6557

Email: artscentre@blacktown.nsw.gov.au

NSW - Clarence River Historical Society Inc - CHG2021/133

The Clarence River Historical Society Inc received \$5,995 for a Preservation Needs Assessment for Museum's Collection held at the historic "Schaeffer House" in Grafton.

Clarence River Historical Society was formed in 1931 and manages an internationally recognised collection of artefacts and records, as well as the historic house where the collection is displayed and stored and a repository located at Koolkhan, NSW.

The assessment was undertaken by Conservator Tegan Anthes and her report has provided the Society with a current assessment of a large amount of the Society's artefacts and records.

They now have a prioritised plan for remedial action needed to assist in the continuing preservation of the Society's collection, and steps to improve the environmental conditions.

The report will also assist the Society to seek further funding to achieve these priorities.

Contact: Steve Tranter, President

Phone: (02) 6642 5212

Email: clarencehistory@bigpond.com

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

NSW – Deniliquin & District Historical Society Inc – CHG2021/021

The Deniliquin & District Historical Society received \$14,058 to undertake collection management activities and purchase appropriate storage and display cabinets for key parts of their Museum Collection, housed in the historic Former Police Inspector's Residence.

Secure collection storage that enabled better control of environmental conditions was an urgent priority, especially as the area was experiencing a mouse plague.

The cabinets have also improved the security of the collection as well as the health and safety aspects of working with it.

The arrangement of new displays in the cabinets has provided the opportunity for upskilling of volunteers in presentation of collections.

The Society reported that the project uplifted morale during a challenging period and feel that the presentation of objects in well-lit cabinets also improves the quality of any photos or digital representations.

Contact: Meg Christian, Secretary & Public Officer

Phone: 0428 359 297

Email: denihistorical@gmail.com.au

SA – Australian Lutheran College – CHG2021/023

The Australian Lutheran College is the tertiary education institution for the Lutheran Church of Australia and enrolls students from all over Australia and New Zealand. They received \$1,747 for the purchase of collection storage of their Rare Books Collection, as was recommended in their earlier Preservation Needs Assessment.

This project enabled the purchase of archival boxes to house their vulnerable rare book collection, which has alleviated the potentially damaging risk posed by the compression and overcrowding of items on the shelves.

They will now seek other sources of funding to pursue conservation treatment of high priority items.

Contact: Trevor Schaefer, Serials and Lending Librarian

Phone: (08) 7120 8270

Email: library@alc.edu.au

WA – Town of Claremont – Claremont Museum – CHG2021/029

The Claremont Museum received \$6,574 for a project to digitise items from their oral history collection with EziDigital Digital Archiving Services.

The historic Freshwater Bay School is home to the Claremont Museum collection which preserves and exhibits the cultural heritage of the local area.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

The contents of this previously inaccessible set of cassettes are now uploaded to Collections WA to enable access to these significant recordings. Soundbites and quotes can now be incorporated into exhibitions, publications and educational resources, and transcripts are now also available.

This project has increased the Claremont Museum's connection to the community.

Contact: Fiona Crossan, Museum Curator

Phone: (08) 9285 4300

Email: toc@claremont.wa.gov.au

TAS – Kentish Council – CHG2021/034

The Kentish Council in northwest Tasmania received \$6,170 for a project to stabilise and conserve the Whitworth Pounder, one of the two remaining Whitworth BL Mark 1 15 Pounder Guns from ongoing corrosion.

The project was undertaken by Paul Hunt, a specialist in metal conservation, and involved cleaning the object's surfaces, stabilising existing corrosion, and applying preventive coatings to protect it in future.

This project accomplished the key primary stage of the ongoing plan to care for and extend the lifespan of this significant object. Eventually the roofline of the Kentish Museum will be extended to cover the gun and further protect this artefact.

Contact: Mr Gerald Monson, General Manager

Contact: Leigh Gracie, Community Development Officer

Phone: (03) 6491 0200

Email: council@kentish.tas.gov.au

ACT – Canberra & District Historical Society Inc – CHG2021/037

The Canberra and District Historical Society received \$14,333 for the conservation of the Patience Australie Wardle Collection, undertaken by Kim Morris of Art and Archival Cultural Materials Conservation.

This collection comprises a variety of paper and photographic materials dating from 1895-1992, and in an earlier Significance Assessment was deemed to hold high potential for research into and interpretation of Canberra's early twentieth century history.

Contact: Ms Julia Ryan, Hon. Treasurer

Phone: (02) 6281 2929

Email: admin@canberrahistory.org.au

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

WA - The Perth Diocesan Trustees - CHG2021/043

The Perth Diocesan Trustees received \$13,636 for the purchase of preservation and disaster recovery supplies, and a digitisation project.

The Anglican Diocese of Perth Archive collection is housed within a heritage building in Middle Swan and holds a collection which is mainly paper based but includes other formats such as photographs, magnetic based materials, parchment, costumes and textiles, furniture, video and digital materials.

The collection contains significant Episcopal and Parish records, the archives of affiliated agencies, Provincial records, Bishop and Archbishop records and those reflecting the business of the Diocese.

The project enabled the Trustees to achieve short- and medium-term recommendations identified in an earlier Preservation Needs Assessment such as the replacement of disaster recovery supplies, the digitisation of at-risk magnetic media, the purchase of environmental monitoring equipment and the replacement of MDF shelving with powder coated steel.

Contact: Naomi Lam, Archivist

Phone: (08) 9374 5627

Email: reception@perth.anglican.org

QLD - Queensland Maritime Museum Association - CHG2021/045

The Queensland Maritime Museum Association received \$8,435 for the preservation and digitisation of their collection.

Queensland Maritime Museum Associations (QMMA) manage a world class Maritime Museum which focuses on connecting people with Brisbane's and Queensland's Maritime Heritage, preserving objects, artefacts and Intellectual Property (including matters significant in constitutional terms).

This funding enabled QMMA to purchase archival storage and handling materials, cleaning and pest management products including protective sheeting and sleeves, archive boxes, pest management kit, book pillow and tweezers, to preserve its paper and lighthouse collections, and data loggers to monitor the temperature and relative humidity throughout the museum.

Contact: Michael Sobyra, Director/Administration Manager

Phone: (07) 3844 5361

Email: grants@maritimemusesum.com.au

WA - Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) - CHG2021/061

The Western Australian Cricket Association received \$8,811 for the digitisation of the WACA archives including journals, ledgers and cash books containing minutes of meetings, financial records and a membership register from 1897.

This project enhanced the celebrations of the 90th anniversary of the formation of the WAWCA, the association formed in 1930 to represent women's cricket in Western Australia, as original

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

scoresheets of women's cricket matches were digitised. This project supported the ongoing research of numbering and identifying all Western Australia's women cricketers.

The project outcomes will also support recognition of the upcoming 75th anniversary of Western Australia's entry into the national Sheffield Shield competition in 1947-48, through the scanning of Sheffield Shield match scoresheets.

Making all this data available in digitised form for ongoing public research through websites such as Cricket Archive and Trove, will make the information available to a wider research audience nationally and internationally.

Contact: Joanna Coubrough, General Manager - WACA Ground and Support Venues

Phone: (08) 9265 7222

Email: catherine.finch@wacricicket.com.au

QLD - The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd - CHG2021/063

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Ltd received \$9,492 for conservation and collection management activities.

Established in 1885, the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation promoting the study and science of geography to foster a greater understanding and enjoyment of the world around us.

This project enabled the purchase of preservation materials and display cabinets recommended in an earlier Preservation Needs Assessment and enhanced collection storage conditions. The project also led to increased commitment from staff and volunteers, and simple repairs have been carried out on some maps and other maps which need professional restoration have been identified.

Collection catalogue contents have been prepared for transfer to eHive and the 5 year subscription has been acquired.

Another outcome is the ability to demonstrate connections between different parts of the collection not otherwise apparent, which is timely as the Society will soon launch the JO Thomson exhibition using the new display cabinets to coincide with the annual Thomson Oration.

Contact: Lilia Darii, Business Manager

Phone: (07) 3368 2066

Email: info@rgsq.org.au

NSW - Moree Cultural Art Foundation - CHG2021/065

The Moree Cultural Art Foundation received \$13,636 for the conservation treatment of items in the Bank Art Museum Moree Collection.

Bank Art Museum Moree (BAMM) preserves the history and culture of the Kamilaroi people and conducts both touring and in house curated and collection exhibitions, as well as a range of community engagement and art programs.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

This project was the final CHG step of a three stage Collection Management plan identifying the national significance of the BAMM Collection and responding to preservation needs of objects and the site and responded to a series of identified short-term prioritised actions for Nationally Significant at-risk works. These included the conservation and preservation of Collection objects and artworks, including the treatment, restoration, resting methods, and storage of artworks and objects.

The project allowed BAMM to contract an Indigenous Conservator with community ties to local families and the objects themselves, to complete several key short-term recommendations on culturally significant objects.

The improved care of these objects will allow BAMM to design more engaging display spaces to improve public access without increasing the vulnerability of objects.

Contact: Vivien Clyne, Director

Phone: (02) 6757 3320

Email: info@bamm.org.au

VIC - Shrine of Remembrance - CHG2021/066

The Shrine of Remembrance received \$7,578 for the Crypt Casket Time Capsule Conservation.

The Shrine of Remembrance is Victoria's national memorial, honouring the service and sacrifice of Australians in war and peacekeeping.

The project achieved the conservation treatment and documentation of significant founding documents linked to the creation of Victoria's Shrine of Remembrance.

In 1928, members of the Victorian National War Memorial Committee, including General Sir John Monash, spearheaded a campaign to raise funds to build the Shrine. Receipts recording the names of those who donated money, were then collected by the Committee, sealed inside zinc containers and placed in a bronze casket in the Shrine's Crypt. The intention was that they be kept forever as a symbol of the community's important role in creating the memorial.

In recent years, swelling occurred to the containers and Conservators opened them, assessed the condition of the receipts inside and created new housing of sealed Perspex which were then returned to their original place within the Crypt. The new housing makes it possible to monitor the condition of the boxes containing the receipts, future proofing them from any further problems.

The project enabled unprecedented access to, and digitisation of, documents that had not been seen since they were placed in the sealed containers. A future project will include making the receipts searchable and available for public research.

Contact: Kate Spinks, Curator Collections and Exhibitions

Phone: (03) 9661 8100

Email: reception@shrine.org.au

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

VIC -The Dax Centre Ltd. - CHG2021/069

The Dax Centre received \$13,500 to upgrade the Dax Centre Collection Management software.

The Cunningham Dax Collection is a collection of national significance registered on the Victorian Heritage Register. This Collection represents an important part of Australian history of mental illness and its interactions of those with lived experience with art and culture.

The Dax Centre is the custodian of The Cunningham Dax Collection, a Victorian heritage listed collection of over 16,000 artworks created by people with lived experience of mental health issues and trauma. The collection was first developed by psychiatrist Dr Eric Cunningham Dax and includes photography, paintings, works on paper, ceramics and textile works.

The archive includes medical records, historic photographs, maps, journals, relevant books, letters, academic papers and administrative files as well as an extensive archive of the history of Larundel and Mont Park psychiatric hospitals. It records a part of Australian art history that is not represented elsewhere across Australia.

The software upgrade project involved the purchase of Axiell software, installation costs and online training.

The upgrade has enabled better utilisation of staff time and volunteer resources for more efficient collection care and management including managing exhibitions and loans. It has allowed better access and improved data accuracy, linking and collection control. Customisable user logins and access levels has also enabled better security for sensitive material.

Contact: Julia Young, Curator and Collections Manger

Phone: (03) 9349 2538

Email: info@daxcentre.org

WA - Perth Observatory Volunteer Group - CHG2021/073

The Perth Observatory Volunteer Group received \$10,280 to improve archival storage microclimate, storage medium and improve their knowledge of documents at risk.

The Perth Observatory Volunteer Group run an astronomical science education and tourism business from the WA Government owned Perth Observatory under an agreement with the Government to manage and protect the internationally significant heritage collection.

The project enabled the installation of dehumidifiers in the library, archives and glass plate storage room. These have reduced the humidity in the three rooms to safe storage levels.

Project funds were also used to purchase sleeves and albums to organise and store the photographic collection.

Contact: Paul Jones, Heritage Curator

Phone: (08) 9293 8255

Email: heritage@perthobservatory.com.au

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

VIC - Jewish Holocaust Centre - CHG2021/084

The Jewish Holocaust Centre received \$7,315 for a project to keep Holocaust survivor voices alive through the digitisation of audio-visual collections.

Founded in 1984, the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne is an accredited museum and education institution dedicated to combatting racism and prejudice. Their collection includes artefacts and oral history recordings.

Over 125 hours of survivor testimony were digitised from old format audio and visual files that represent vital historically significant eyewitness testimony to the Holocaust and the horrific experiences of individuals. Topics covered in the recordings include personal accounts of life during the Holocaust, concentration camps, war crimes and trials and women in resistance.

The recordings were reformatted in accordance with the Museum's Digital Preservation Strategy:

- 70 x Audio Cassettes to .WAV files
 - 63 x Mini DVs to ProRes and MP4 files
 - 9 x HDV tapes to HD ProRes and MP4
 - 3 x VHS tapes to SD ProRes and MP4
- (Total 6 Terabytes)

Project preparation and delivery tasks have enhanced the experiences of personnel, including a collections intern who assisted in the preparation of data. The digitisation was undertaken by the provider FATS Digital.

Contact: Anna Hirsh, Manager of Collections and Research

Phone: (03) 9528 1985

Email: admin@jhc.org.au

SA - Lutheran Archives - CHG2021/087

The Lutheran Archives received \$13,636 for the digitisation of magnetic media, including reel-to-reels, audio cassettes, and videos.

The national archive for the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), holds records created or used by the congregations, departments, auxiliaries, and people of the church in Australia and wherever the church has ministered or drawn its pastorate: New Zealand, India, New Guinea, America, Germany, Prussia. Records date back to the establishment of the church in 1838 and include earlier records from Prussia.

The project has improved the preservation of deteriorating magnetic media (and overall) collection material - most 1/4-inch reels have now been digitised, ahead of 2025 magnetic media digitisation deadline. It also improved knowledge and description of collection content for material that was previously inaccessible as was at risk through playback and handling.

This has improved access to the collection as this material is digitally available to the users of the archive on a permanent basis and in a timely manner. Staff and the Collection Archivist enhanced their skills and achieved enhanced relationships with stakeholders and project management.

Contact: Angela Schilling, Collection Archivist

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

Phone: (08) 8340 4009

Email: lutheran.archives@lca.org.au

VIC - City of Boroondara - CHG2021/093

The City of Boroondara received \$7,190 for the preservation of public art in the Town Hall Gallery Collection.

The Hawthorn Town Hall (redeveloped in 1994 and renamed Hawthorn Arts Centre) houses artworks, historical and civic memorabilia from Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell, which form the Town Hall Gallery Collection.

Many items in the Public Art Collection were identified in the earlier Significance Assessment and Preservation Needs Assessment as requiring conservation treatment. Grimwade Conservation Services were engaged to preserve the bronze patina of the 'Sir Robert Menzies' sculpture and to remove biological growth (lichen) from the substrate of the 'Monument to Raoul Wallenberg' by Karl Duldig.

This project has restored artworks for community enjoyment and improved knowledge of the Town Hall Gallery Collection for Council staff across Arts and Culture, Libraries and Parks departments. It has also given greater visibility to the Public Art Collection and revealed opportunities for improvement of processes linked to its ongoing care and preservation.

Enhanced relationships have been established between Town Hall Gallery and Grimwade Conservation Services, who completed their work to an excellent standard as evidenced in their reports.

Contact: Jackie Gatt, Senior Coordinator Community and Cultural Programming

Phone: (03) 9278 4444

Email: boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au

NSW - Liverpool City Council - CHG2021/103

The Liverpool City Council received \$13,636 for a Liverpool City Council Library and Museum Historical Digitisation Project.

The Liverpool City Council Library and Museum services team operate libraries at Carnes Hill, Casula, Green Valley, Liverpool, Miller and Moorebank, as well as the Liverpool Regional Museum at Casula.

This project focused on the digitisation of oral history interviews recorded on analogue material from the 1970s to the 2000s, capturing unique family histories, voices and insights into the changing landscape of Liverpool, a rapidly growing multicultural hub in Sydney's West.

Prior to digitising, the Liverpool Library's oral history collections were locked away in the archives with limited access and playability. Now they are available for listening and research through the collections catalogue.

This project allowed the library to digitise 238 audio cassette tapes containing oral history interviews, radio broadcasts, Liverpool Council advertisements and annual historical lectures.

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

Preservation-quality files have been secured in an on-premises environment as well as Cloud storage, maintained by the Library and Council IT teams. Preservation files were digitised in WAV format, sampled at 48 kHz and 24-bit rate. Access versions were digitised into a compressed MP3 file format.

This project has led to improvements in the preservation of collection material, development of digital asset management standards, improved access to the collection and greatly improved knowledge of collection content.

Contact: Ella Finney, Local Studies Officer

Phone: (02) 8711 7516

Email: library@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

NSW - Fairfield City Libraries - CHG2021/120

The Fairfield City Libraries received \$8,000 for a Fairfield City Open Libraries Heritage Services Disaster Preparedness Plan.

Fairfield City Open Libraries Heritage Services and Fairfield City Museum and Gallery are business units within Fairfield City Council in Western Sydney care for the Fairfield City Heritage Collection. The Collection is made up of archival material, photographs and objects relating to the local Fairfield area.

Together with consultant Tegan Anthes, staff at Fairfield City Open Libraries Heritage Services and Fairfield City Museum and Gallery developed a comprehensive Fairfield City Council Collection Disaster Preparedness Plan (DPP). This provides guidance to staff before, during and after an incident that affects the heritage collection owned by Fairfield City Council and received input including representatives from curatorial, local studies, facilities, management and the heritage team.

The DPP outlines the risks identified at each site, current controls in place and future preventive measures, and identifies collection priorities for response and recovery.

The DPP identifies staff that will respond to a disaster incident and lead the disaster response and recovery for the heritage collection and can be adapted on an as needed basis depending on the scenario.

At the conclusion of the project Tegan Anthes delivered two training sessions:

1. An introduction to Fairfield City Council's Collection Disaster Plan - delivered to FCMG and heritage staff as well as Council trades, assets and maintenance staff.
2. A hands-on salvage workshop for FCMG and heritage staff

Contact: Carmel Aiello, Coordinator Museum, Gallery and Heritage Services

Phone: (02) 9725 0190

Email: fcmg@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

NSW – Albury City Council – CHG2021/136

The Albury City Council received \$13,565 for the conservation of the items from the Albury Library Museum's Social History Indigenous Collections.

Albury Library Museum operates as a converged facility offering a range of library, museum, research and community services.

Since completing a Preservation Needs Assessment the team has been working towards better understanding of the Indigenous Collections through consultation with local knowledge holders. This has facilitated both better understanding of the collections and new relationships with local community members and groups.

This project involved collection photography, the purchase of a datalogger, rehousing of identified collection items, and replacement of lighting with low UV bulbs informed by the Preservation Needs Assessment in consultation with traditional knowledge holders.

Contact: Ms Emma Williams, Museum Coordinator
Phone: 02) 6023 8111
Email: info@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

VIC – Australian Queer Archives Inc – CHG2021/140

The Australian Queer Archives Inc. (formerly the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives Inc.) received \$15,000 for the Bill West Community Radio Collection Digitisation Project, undertaken by digitisation company VideoLab.

The Archives holds the largest collection of material relating to Australian LGBTIQ+ life, and the largest collection of non-Australian LGBTIQ+ material in Australia comprising over 200,000 items including archives; books; periodicals; audio and audio-visual recordings; oral history interviews; ephemera and posters; photographs; objects; textiles; clothing and costumes; theses; and newspaper clippings.

The Archives has identified a range of priority audio-visual digitisation projects that will be undertaken progressively for at-risk collections currently stored in low temperature and low humidity managed storage with TIMG to slow their deterioration.

The Bill West Community Radio Collection Digitisation Project is a staged digitisation of 272 ¼" reels of a collection comprising of 146 Gaywaves (2SER) programs, 94 Wild GALS (2RSR) programs, 49 Out and Out (national syndicated) programs, and 40 compilation recordings of early 1970s mainstream radio programs with LGBTIQ+ subjects (2GB, 2BL, and 2UE). These recordings are almost entirely unique as little community program content survives, especially as full programs.

Contact: Nick Henderson, Committee Member
Phone: 0437 627 279
Email: mail@queerarchives.org.au

Collection Management and Conservation Activities

NSW – Royal Far West – CHG2021/141

The Royal Far West received \$2,890 for Archival materials for Royal Far West Collection.

Royal Far West has existed for almost a century. During this time, they have amassed a collective of archives from records, photographic imagery, newspaper clippings and artefacts.

The purpose of this project was to purchase archival materials to support the preservation of the archives. Another component of the project included the training of teams on how to use the materials. The Project was achieved and the Royal Far West now have the materials they need to help preserve their archive.

Contact: Danielle Chapman

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Email: daniellec@royalfarwest.org.au

WA – Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre – CHG2021/154

The Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre received \$13,630 for their KALACC Community Heritage Preservation and Collection Care Project, delivered with the assistance of Dr Lyndon Ormond-Parker and in collaboration with local Knowledge Holders.

KALACC is the peak Kimberley regional Aboriginal cultural body and a recognised leader of culturally based programs, projects and activities nationally and internationally. In operation for close to 40 years and supporting the rich and diverse traditional cultural practices of more than 30 language groups within five distinct cultural traditions, KALACC plays a pivotal role in facilitating and celebrating Kimberley Aboriginal cultures and supporting the custodians of the world's oldest living continuous culture.

The KALACC project was conducted 20 June to 1 July 2022, in Fitzroy Crossing WA. Cultural Materials Conservation Consultant Molly Culbertson and Associate Professor Lyndon Ormond-Parker worked closely with KALACC staff to enrich contextual and provenance information relating to KALACC collection materials and undertook collection management, conservation, and preservation activities to support the ongoing care of KALACC's archive, photo and audio-visual collection.

Contact: Wes Morris, Coordinator

Phone: (08) 9191 5317

Email: coordinator@kalacc.org.au

Training

NSW – Royal Far West – CHG2021/104

The Royal Far West received \$3,100 for Collections Care and Preventative Conservation Training.

Royal Far West has existed for almost a century. During this time, they have amassed a collective of archives from records, photographic imagery, newspaper clippings and artefacts.

The grant was used to train staff to support the preservation of the archive. Tegan Anthes Preservation was commissioned and delivered two workshops for the Royal Far West staff and their volunteers. The two workshops focused on Collection Care (principles of conservation, foundations for caring for collections, practical training) and Handling & Storage (clear explanations of the materials used to store collections and practical training). The project was extended to volunteers in the local community (library and historic society) and received wonderful feedback.

Contact: Danielle Chapman

Phone: 0437 627 279

Email: daniellec@royalfarwest.org.au

QLD – Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Ltd. - CHG2021/124

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland received \$13,630 to hold training workshops for staff of other organisations in the region.

The free 3-day Skills Development Workshop Series was held in Winton, Queensland. They focussed on collection policies, assessing significance, developing museum displays, exhibition label writing and making, and digitisation.

They were presented by two highly experienced consultant trainers, Dr Melanie Piddocke, Museum Development Officer, from the Queensland Museum Network and Dr Kate Gahan, Project Manager – Collections and Stories, from Museums & Galleries of New South Wales.

The workshops were well attended by participants from across the region, with 10 collecting organisations represented. Some participants travelled from as far as Mt Isa and Townsville.

Participants conveyed universally positive feedback and also noted the value of the networking opportunities. They felt they gained highly relevant practical and theoretical skills, as well as meeting others facing similar challenges in managing like collections.

Contact: Rebekah Butler, Executive Director

Phone: (07) 3059 9740

Email: information@magsq.com.au

Training

VIC - Greater Dandenong City Council - CHG2021/143

The Greater Dandenong City Council received \$1,800 for training workshops on Significance Assessment and Caring for Collections.

This training program enabled participants from the Council, the Dandenong and District Historical Society, the Springvale and District Historical Society, the Springvale RSL and the Dandenong RSL to learn about assessing the significance and needs of their respective collections.

The two training sessions were delivered by museum professionals from AMaGA and included practical sessions on writing a significance statements, training on storage, handling, labelling, industry standards and collection care (covering managing deterioration and risk mitigation).

Attendees learnt valuable information from both sessions and are now looking at their collections from a new perspective, especially regarding the significance of select objects.

Contact: Prue Hawkey, Cultural Heritage Program Lead

Phone: (03) 8571 5268

Email: council@cgd.vic.gov.au

VIC - Museum of Chinese Australian History - CHG2021/153

The Museum of Chinese Australian History received \$1,000 for CatalogIt Training for museum staff.

The Museum of Chinese Australian History is a community-run not-for-profit national institution that was established by Chinese Australians, Victoria State Government, and Melbourne City Council in 1985.

It preserves and presents Chinese culture and Australian history in accordance with its vision to celebrate the identities and enrich the understanding of Chinese Australian communities for a more harmonious society.

This project resulted in valuable virtual training sessions and a live Q&A session which enabled the Museum to maximise the benefit of their CatalogIt software. Dan Rael, the co-founder and developer of CatalogIt facilitated the training session and provided training on the functions of the Museum's new Collection Management System.

The training program was attended by core staff members and volunteers working on the main collections, research archive and research library.

The recorded training sessions are now included in the Museum's induction program so that new staff members or volunteers no longer solely rely on textual training materials.

Contact: Vanessa Shia, Museum Registrar

Phone: (03) 9662 2888

Email: collection@chinesemuseum.com.au